

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 36.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE PRISON.

The Joint Standing Committee on the State Prison, having visited that institution, in pursuance of the Joint Order of the Legislature, ask leave to present the following

REPORT.

On Wednesday, 3d of February, 1869, your Committee visited the State Prison, and spent two days in carefully examining the Prison in all its various departments, conversing freely with the officers, closely observing the convicts while at work, and when in their cells.

We also inquired into the duties of the officers, the faithfulness of each, and his personal adaptation to his particular business; and your Committee are unanimous in the opinion that the Warden and Inspectors have succeeded in securing a class of subordinate officers who are well adapted to the wants of the institution, and among whom exists that perfect harmony in the discharge of their duties, which secures respect on the part of the convicts, and the confidence of all connected with the prison.

We, therefore, state it as our opinion, that the business of the prison is successfully managed, and that the money appropriated by the State for this institution, is economically and faithfully expended, and yields returns as profitable as can be reasonably expected.

The buildings, as will be seen by the Inspectors' report, have been enlarged, and materially improved, making them convenient for the officers, and secure for the convicts, reflecting much credit on the State, and upon the Warden, under whose superintendence said improvements have been made.

While your Committee see much to praise, and nothing to condemn in the management of this institution, we nevertheless feel as other Committees have also felt, and, indeed, as we believe all who are most conversant with the wants of the prison agree, that notwithstanding the faithfulness of the Chaplain, and the untiring efforts of Mrs. W. W. Rice, (who has done much to educate and reform the convicts with no other compensation than the satisfaction of aiding the unfortunate,) there should be a change in the chaplaincy.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend, that there be a Chaplain appointed, whose duty it shall be, to perform religious services in the chapel every Sunday, visit the sick, labor diligently for the mental and moral improvement of the convicts, and aid in obtaining employment for them after being discharged from prison.

The Committee examined carefully into the proposed improvements, for which special appropriations are asked by the Warden and Inspectors, see the necessity for these improvements, and that it will be economy to make them, and would therefore recommend the appropriation of thirty thousand dollars, (\$30,000.)

GEO. GOODWIN, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 20, 1869.

Read and accepted, and on motion of Mr. WEBB, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*